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19 January 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

19 January 1959

DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

OK *Bulgaria: [There appear to have been strong differences within the Bulgarian party central committee at its December meeting over plans for the reorganization of the economy, particularly with regard to the form of agricultural collectives. Party First Secretary Zhivkov reportedly wanted to continue the gradual merger of collective farms while the party's former Stalinist boss, Chervenkov, possibly in an effort to unseat Zhivkov, vigorously proposed the creation of Chinese-type communes. Decisions of a 16-17 January central committee plenum suggest that the Zhivkov policies have won out at least for now.]

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III. THE WEST

210 Cuba: Despite condemnation throughout the hemisphere of the summary executions in Cuba, Fidel Castro continues

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DAILY BRIEF

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to try to justify the actions as necessary to "purify Cuba." Castro has replied in strong terms to US criticism, but seems to ignore that coming from other countries. His official newspaper on 17 January, in a long and strongly anti-US editorial, called for a mass rally on 21 January in support of his policy of "social prophylaxis" by the "exemplary punishment of those responsible for the tyranny, so beloved by the paid yellow press." Uruguay, meanwhile, has sent a "friendly note" to Cuba's UN delegation calling for cessation of the executions.

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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Controversy Developing Over Bulgarian Agricultural Policy

[During a special plenum of the central committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party, held from 20 to 22 December, a split apparently developed between party First Secretary Todor Zhivkov and ex-party boss Vulko Chervenkov on the question of agricultural policy. Zhivkov reportedly favored continuation of a policy of relatively moderate change in the Bulgarian economy, based primarily on the merging of collective farms. Chervenkov, possibly hoping to oust Zhivkov and re-establish himself--in fact if not in name--as leader of the party, proposed a more drastic reorganization of Bulgaria's administration and economy, centered on the creation of Chinese-type communes.]

[The policy of amalgamating collective farms was first set forth at a plenum in early October by Zhivkov and was made part of a more inclusive economic development plan advanced at a subsequent plenum on 11 November. The need for further changes in administration and organization to implement November's decisions was probably the primary reason for calling the special plenum in December. However, the decisions of another central committee plenum held 16-17 January suggest the policies advocated by Zhivkov have won out at least for the time being.]

[Chervenkov probably has the unexpressed loyalty of the leaders on the lower party levels, most of whom have a hard-line attitude which would cause them to see more of a kindred spirit in Peiping than in Moscow. Zhivkov on the other hand has the indisputable support of Soviet party boss Khrushchev, a fact which so far has probably prevented many Chervenkov supporters from openly opposing him.]

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